



Comparative Cultures 12 Course Description and Outline

Course Description

Comparative Cultures 12 is based upon the study of a variety of ancient cultures. However, the study of the ancients is not an anachronistic pursuit as many aspects of historical and cultural influences are revealed within their past. Many relevant and vibrant themes that affect our global domain are revealed within studies of the ancient world. Many of the **cultural roots of religion, mythology, government, philosophy, art, architecture, and theatre** are revealed within course studies. Moreover, these themes are developed within a framework of understanding their relevance for us today. As well, importance of understanding the plurality of the world is enhanced. Included in this study is the importance of understanding other cultural traditions and their influence on North America. Moreover, the concepts of **ethnocentrism, cultural relativism** and **xenocentrism** will be central to the study of ancient cultures in understanding cultural plurality. An added focus provided for students is the exploration of travel in complementing an understanding of peoples, cultures and environments across the globe. A wide variety of opportunities for studying ancient cultures are provided including **extensive class discussions, video excerpts, one major group research project, an ethical philosophical debate and slide presentations.**

Course Goals

Comparative Cultures 12 is catered to enhancing the interest level of all students taking the course and engaging students in the study of the course content. Much of the students' success in the course will be based upon their participation and engagement in the course material. Assessment often involves the employment of open notes quizzes and tests allowing students to decide how much work they desire to commit to the course in determining their overall grade. An emphasis on the inquiry model will be employed to enhance and increase students' abilities to think critically and gain problem solving skills. However, although the course is intended to offer less formative evaluation than some other senior electives, students are reminded that certain expectations are expected by the instructor such as completion of any assignments and most importantly, punctuality, attendance and participation in course activities.

Supplies, Materials and Textbooks

Students are highly recommended to have a three-ring binder as well as lined paper and pens. Students may record notes on laptops or tablet technology but will not be provided access to electrical power outlets. One textbook is issued to students and students are reminded to please keep the textbook in good condition while using it and not to lose it as the replacement cost is a hefty **\$90.00!** The textbook is titled: **Echoes from the Past** and will be used at different points in course studies throughout the year.

Assignments and approximate percentages of each term (Terms 1, 2, 3) and total year-end percentage breakdown

Approximate % for marks in Term 1 + 3

Open notes Quizzes/Tests	35%
Citizenship	20%
Homework Assignments	30%
Term Test: Multiple Choice	15%
Total percentage	100%

Approximate % for marks in Term 2

Open notes Quizzes/Tests	20%
Project presentation	35%
Citizenship	20%
Homework Assignments	10%
Term Test: Multiple Choice	15%
Total percentage	100%

Supplemental Information

- Each term there a Term exam comprised of **90 to 100 multiple choice questions**. There will be **no written component** on term tests.
- Please note that students must attend all three tests at the time they are scheduled unless an authorized medical or personal matter excuse has been received by the instructor. For the sake of integrity and fairness to all students, term exams must be written by every student at the allocated place and time.
- Cheating, of course, will be treated as a serious breach of trust and will result in a score of zero and possible intervention by an administrator which could include notification of parents or guardians of the offense.

Totals percentages for the year

Term 1	30%
Term 2	30%
Term 3	30%
Year-end Test	10%
Total for year	100%

General Pattern of Study Topics

Term One Topic Overview

- Understanding culture conceptually.
- Early Human Cultures.
- Cradle of Civilization Cultures: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Israel.
- The early Greeks Culture.

Relevant cultural themes in Term One: what archeology reveals about cultures, the importance of the environment to cultural understanding, how death and the after-life and immortality influence cultures.

Term Two Topic Overview

- Classical Greek Culture
- Mythologies of the World (Student presentations).

Relevant themes to be explored in Term Two: Political influences on culture (democracy), how art, architecture reflect culture, philosophical developments and ethical standards within cultures; how Western culture has been influenced by Greek drama

Term Three Topic Overview

- Indigenous Cultures in Central American: Mayans and Aztecs.
- Ancient Chinese culture and its influence on modern China.

Relevant themes to be explored in Term Three: religious influences on culture and political practice, superstition and culture, Asian traditions, rituals and habits of mind revealed within cultural practices.

Course Work Activities Highlights

Term One

Johnston's Journeys slide presentations: ancient cultures as seen by visits to Egypt and Israel.

Term Two

World Mythologies Group Presentations; Johnston's Journeys slide presentation: Ancient Greek culture; western philosophical principles revealed with Greek philosophy plus modern Morality and Ethics symposium.

Term Three

Johnston's Journeys slide presentation: Mexico (Mayan culture)

Johnston's Journey's: China (Chinese culture)

How world music reflects cultural diversity: World Music Workshop (\$5 guest presenter fee per student)

Other considerations

- **Student Commitment:** Students are expected to adhere to the school Code of Conduct specified in the School Agenda. Normal classroom protocol is also required. Thus, students are expected to attend regularly, be on time for class, bring proper materials to the classroom and participate in classroom activities. Respect for each individual in the class and personal viewpoints on issues is a primary condition for a positive engagement in classroom activities.
- **Comparative Cultures 12 Commitment:** punctuality, attendance, involvement in classroom activities, completion of assignments, respect for diversity of opinion,
- **Attendance and Punctuality:** A note from home is required for any absence and must include the date and the reason for absence. If a student will be absent from a class for a club or sports commitment or due to the request of another teacher, they must speak to the instructor ahead of time. Students are expected to arrive on time as given the enormity of the content to be covered, each class starts immediately after the bell rings. If a student arrives late and the door is closed, they are asked to please wait outside until the instructor opens the door at a convenient time.
- **Assignments:** It is the student's responsibility to have assignments completed on time. If absent, students are expected to find out what the assignment was and hand it in the following class. Marks will be deducted for late and/or incomplete work. Students **should not attempt to email assignments** to the instructor unless consulting first with the instructor.
- **Assessment:** Students will be assessed in a number of ways in order to provide a balanced evaluation of performance. Assessment is based upon standards of expectations consistent with the learning outcomes prescribed within the provincially developed curriculum.
- **Benefits for students taking Comparative Civilizations 12:** relevance of the past to the present, the development of an understanding of diversity, plurality and recognition of ethnocentricity. An appreciation for travel and the potential for the personal development of interests related to experiencing other cultures, peoples and ways of life.

Online Support Now Available: Students are greatly advised to consult the online resources provided for Comparison Cultures12 students by the instructor which include Study Guides, Powerpoint Presentations and Video links for review of in-class activities. To access the website, students merely need to log into this web address: <http://lordbyng.net/socials/> OR log onto the Lord Byng School website, go to Departments, go to Social Studies and click on the link <http://lordbyng.net/socials/>